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Marvel

28th July 1995
No 203 90p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

As seen on TV!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

Win a set of Thomas Playballs!

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Engines to the rescue! Hoop-la game! Crossword!

ALL AB

Notice Board!

Peep! Peep! Climb aboard for another splendid issue of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends. With lots of fun games and stories, there's something for everyone! In our first story, James is saved from danger when Thomas shows him, **The special signal!** Then, find out more about other engines who have saved the day in our special feature, **Engines to the rescue!** In our Read & Play story, **The red engine,** James is surprised to discover that he is not the only red engine on the Island of Sodor, and in our follow-on Read & Play activity, we'll show you how to make an exciting **Hoop-la game.** Meanwhile, Thomas has another great idea in our final adventure, **The bright truck!** when he finds a new job for an old, disused truck. Plus, as well as a fantastic competition, there's a colourful crossword for you to complete! **Peep! Peep!**

A Thomas Playball!

in our fantastic competition on page 9!

Make a Hoop-la game on pages 16 & 17!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**. Chairman; Jim Galton, Managing Director; Richard Maskell, Editorial Director; Paul Neary. Group Editor; Alan O'Keefe. Editorial Team; Jenny Wackett, Andy Seddon. Art Director; Helen Nally, Design; Liz Stott, Production Control. Julie Pickering, Mark Irvine, Andy Parslow. Office of Publication: 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2R 3DX. All 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. **'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS'** is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 071 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

ABC CONSUMER PRESS

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

OARD!

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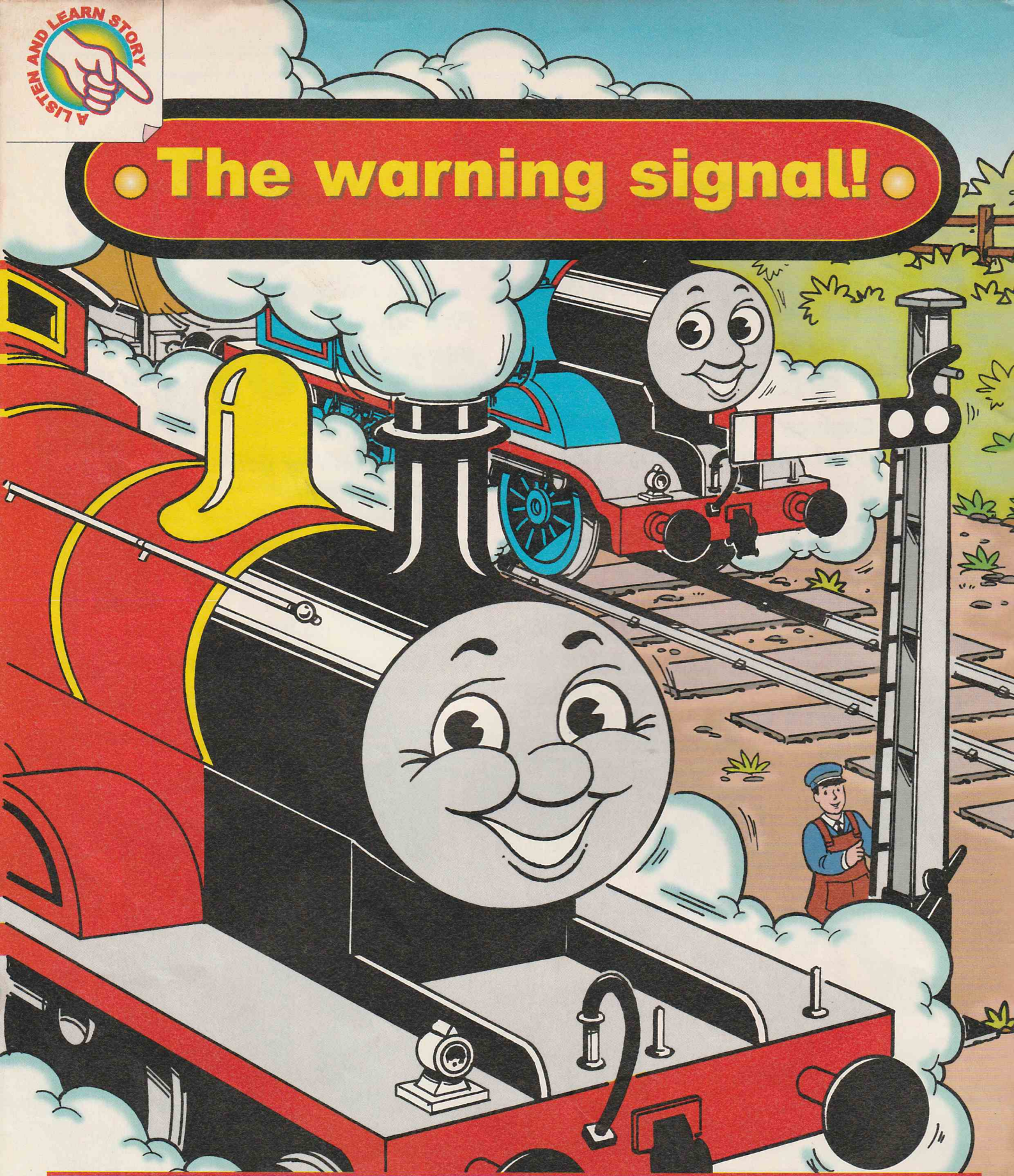
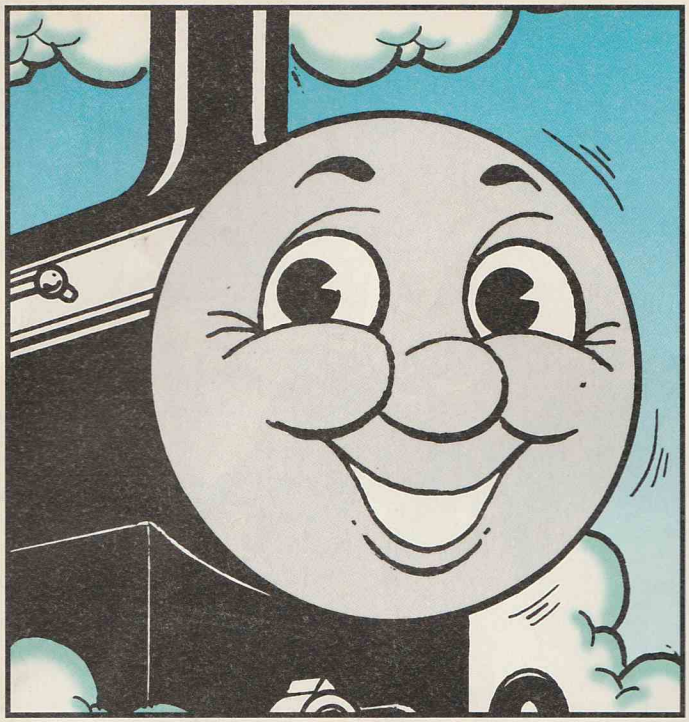
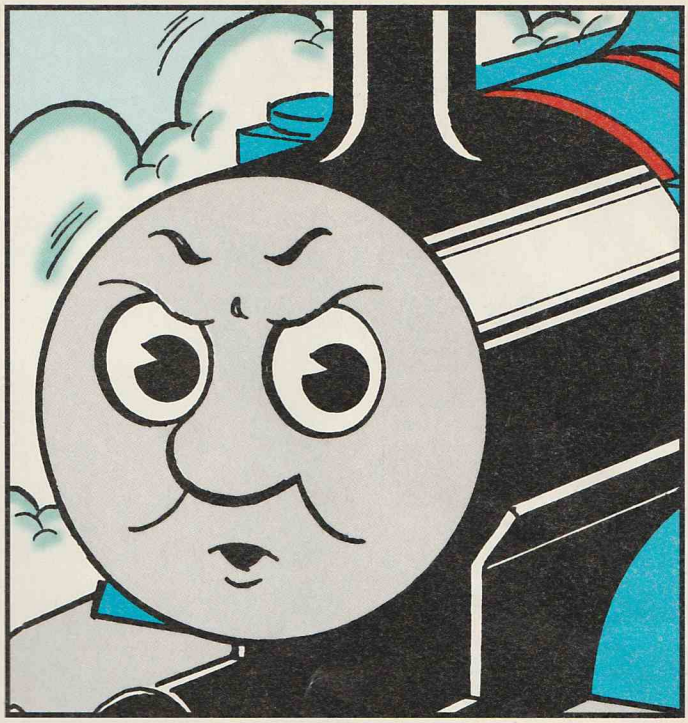


1. One day, James took a works train to check all the railway signals on the main line. James preferred to pull passenger coaches. But for once, he did not grumble.

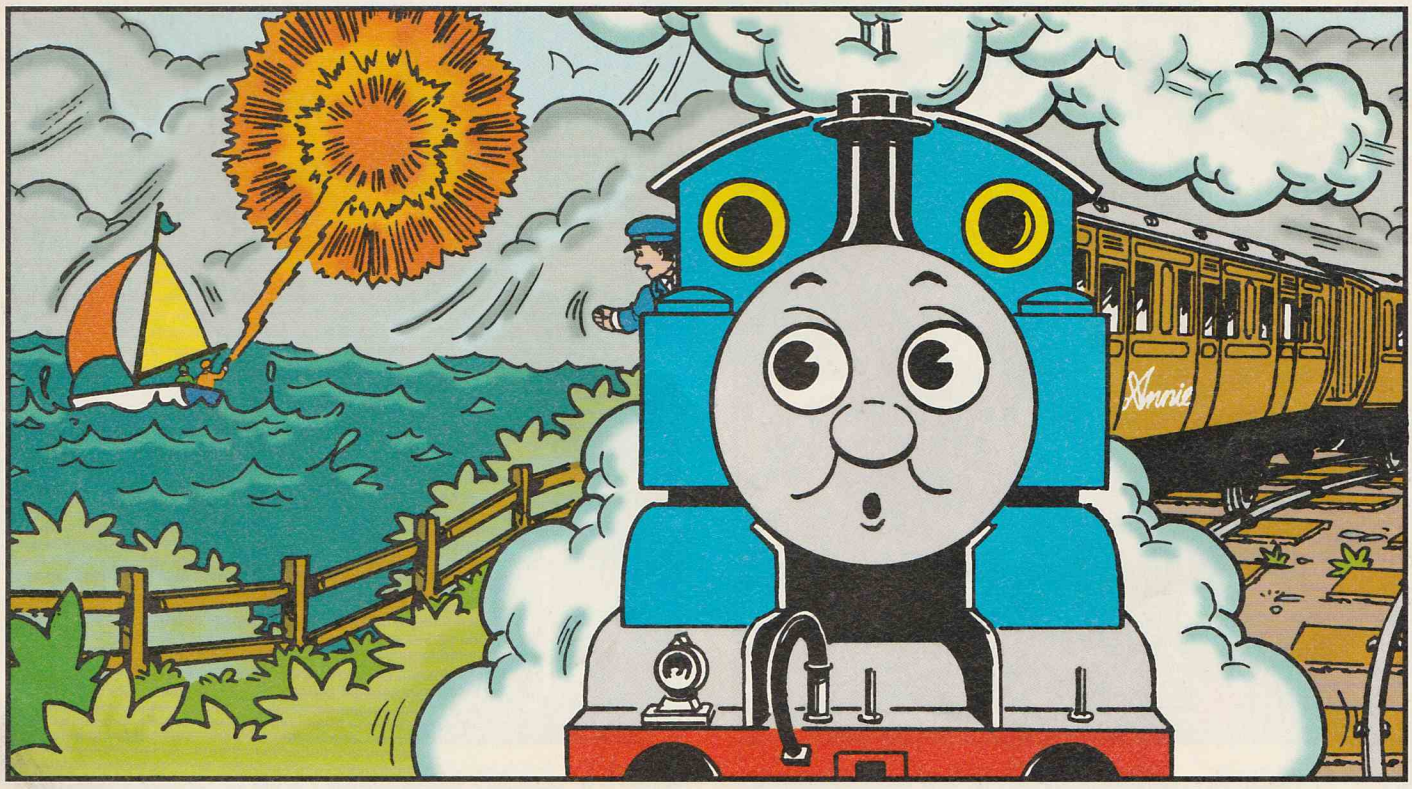
2. "Signals must be kept in good working order so the engines know when to stop or go on!" thought James. Soon Thomas arrived. He was pulling Annie and Clarabel.



3. "The signals are used to keep engines and passengers safe!" called James. "The Fat Controller chose me for this job because I'm a Really Useful Engine!"



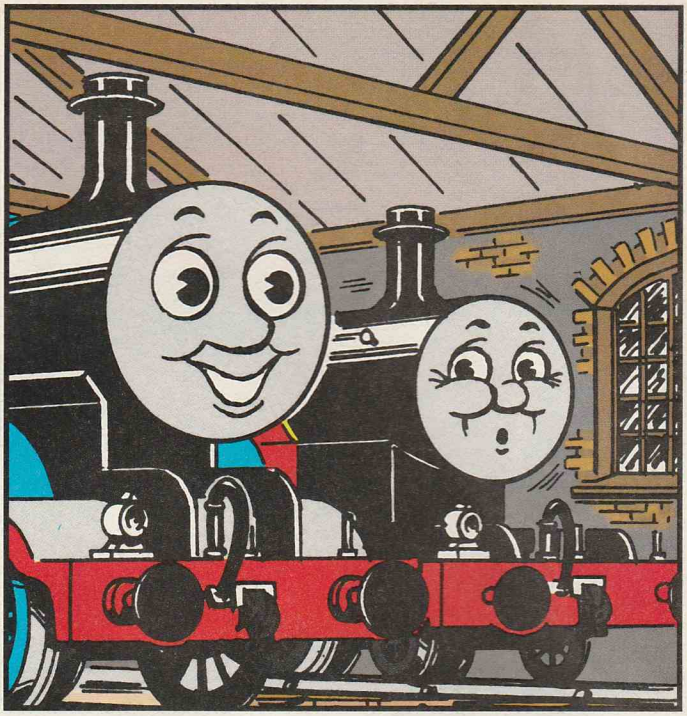
4. "Signals are too important to leave to little tank engines like you!" boasted James. Thomas was cross. "James is getting far too big for his buffers!" he fumed.



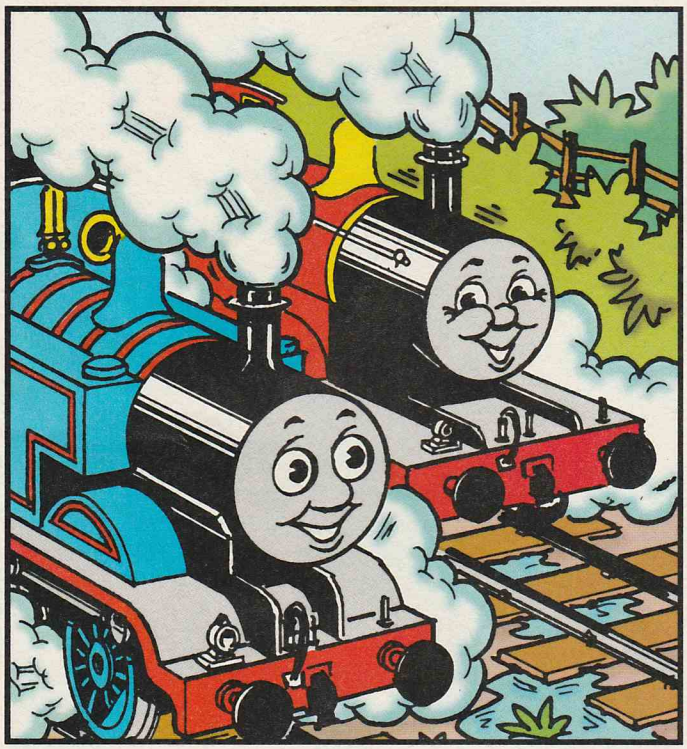
5. Thomas hurried off to pick up passengers on the seaside line. Just then, a strong wind blew up, making the sea very rough. Huge waves crashed onto the shore.

6. As Thomas looked worriedly out to sea he suddenly saw a bright flash. "What was that?" he gasped. "A signal flare to say a yacht's in trouble!" shouted his driver.

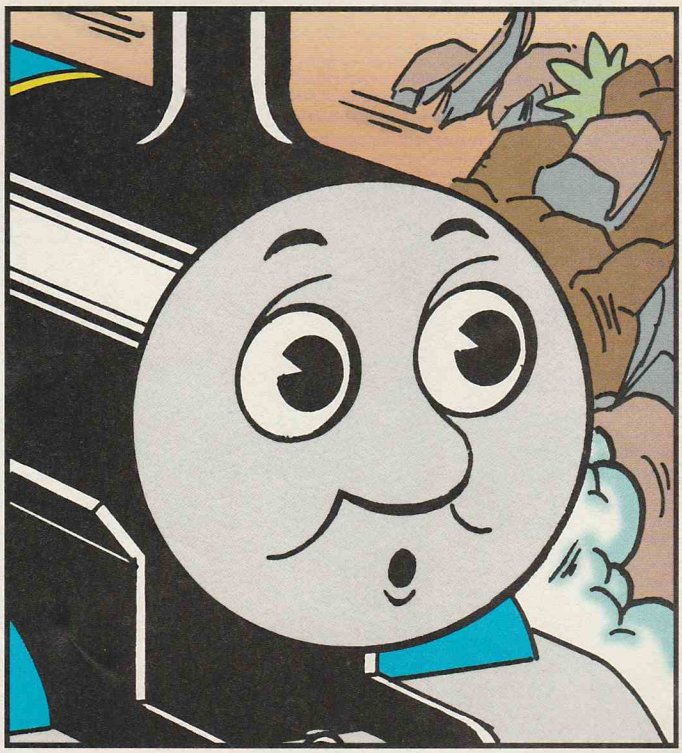
7. Harold the Helicopter saw the signal too and whirled to the rescue. Thomas rolled into a station, nearby. He watched Harold bravely lift the yacht's crew to safety.



8. That night it rained heavily. In the engine shed, Thomas told James about the signal from the yacht. Next day, there was to be a big yacht race at the seaside.



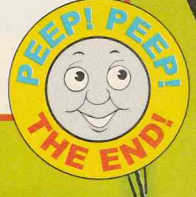
9. Thomas rolled out of the Main Station to collect people taking part in the race. Gordon went to the Works to be cleaned so James proudly pulled the Express.



10. Later, Thomas puffed towards the coast. He saw the other line was blocked. "A landslide!" he cried. "The rain has made lots of earth slip down on to the track!"

11. Thomas braked sharply. "James is due any minute, on the blocked line, with the Express!" called Thomas's driver. "There's no time to warn him!" Thomas had an idea. "Our passengers may be carrying flares for their yachts in the race!" he said. The driver quickly asked them and one yachtsman aboard Clarabel said he could help. Meanwhile, James steamed closer.

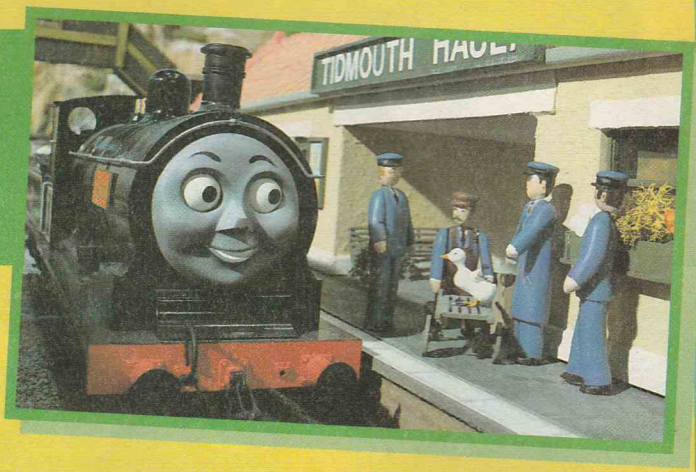
12. He had no idea of the danger just ahead. Suddenly, he saw an orange light shoot into the sky. Thanks to Thomas, James knew what it was. He made an emergency stop. James slid to a halt by the landslide. No one was hurt. "It's lucky I was carrying yachtsmen!" explained Thomas. "And lucky for me you sent such a special signal!" said James, thankfully.

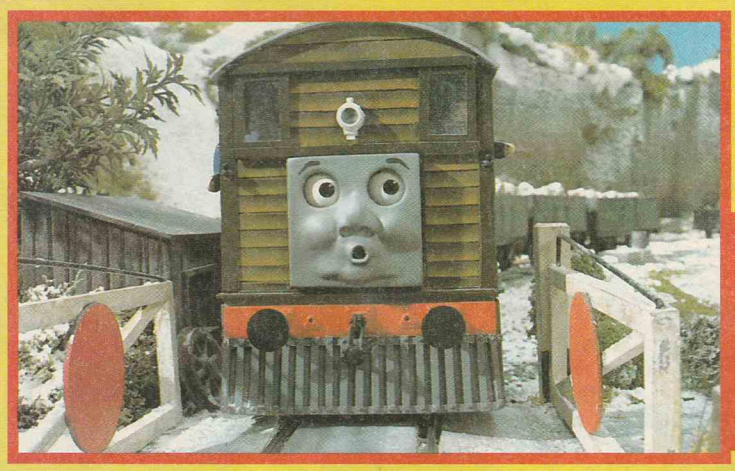


Engines to the rescue!

If any of the engines are in trouble, their engine friends always help them out! Read on to find out all about how the engines have helped each other in the past!

Donald can remember the time when Thomas and his driver went missing! If Thomas's driver hadn't flashed an S.O.S signal with his torch, Donald would never have found them!





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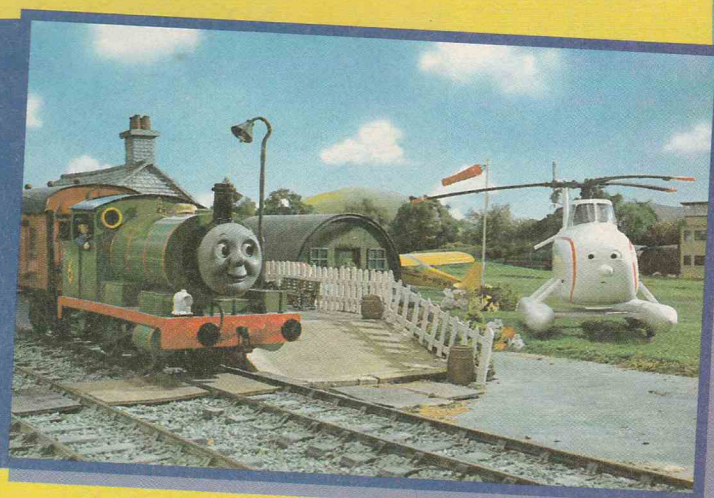
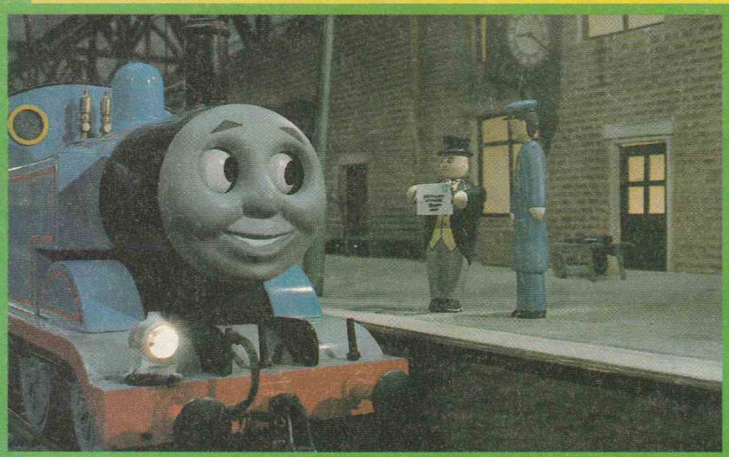
Toby saved the day when he spotted an aeroplane in trouble! Thanks to Toby's quick thinking, his driver directed the plane into an empty field! Good work, Toby!

Poor Percy remembers the time when his driver hadn't put his brake on properly! The little engine rolled off down a section of disused track with no one on board! Everyone on the railway thought that Percy had been stolen! Thanks to Harold and the Fat Controller, they soon spotted Percy and brought him safely back home!





Thomas remembers the time when urgent medicine was needed by a vet in Wellsworth on a very stormy day! On his journey, Thomas spotted an injured dog by the railway line! So, not only did Thomas deliver the urgent medicine, but also reunited the dog with its owner! What a Really Useful engine he is!

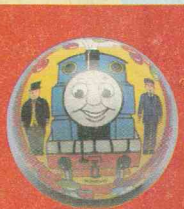
The engines know how important friends are! They also know that it is just as important to be a good friend, too!

WIN A Thomas playball!

Summer's here at last and there's nothing better than playing with a brilliant bouncy ball on the beach or in the park! That's why our friends at *Mondo* have decided to give away **120 fabulous Thomas Playballs** absolutely **FREE.** If you would like to try to win one of these great balls, then it couldn't be easier, just answer the question below:

What is the Island of Sodor's Harbour called?

a) Kidmouth b) Widmouth c) Tidmouth



Send your answers on a postcard, with your name and address, to: Thomas/Playball Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London WC2R 3DX. Entries to be received no later than 2nd August, 1995.

This competition is open to everyone except employees of Marvel Comics Ltd., and Mondo UK Ltd. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered in to.

YOUR LETTERS

STAR LETTER!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win one of these Thomas push and pull motorised engines!

SHAPE UP!

Dear Fat Controller,
My favourite engine is Percy because he is nice and round! Please can you tell me why Percy is a round shape with curved sides, whilst Thomas has straight sides?
Love from Scott Wright, aged 3.
The reason for the difference in the engine shapes is because Thomas and Percy are different models! If you look carefully, you'll see that Percy has round features just like Bill and Ben! This is because they are types of saddle-tank engines, whereas Thomas is a tank engine!

BULGY BLUES!

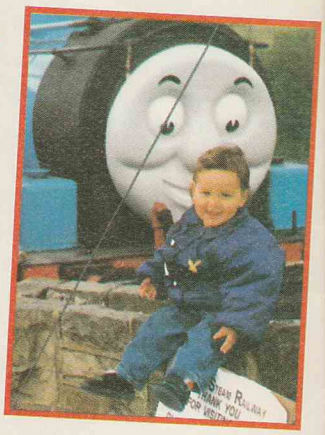
Dear Fat Controller,
Please can you tell me why Bulgy is such an unhappy bus, unlike Bertie who is my favourite character.
Love from James Chew, aged 2.
Bulgy has never been a happy bus and after he had his accident he became even grumpier! Maybe one day, if he decides to smile he just might become a working bus again!

ENGINE COLOURS!

Dear Fat Controller,
My favourite engines are James and Trevor. Can you tell me if there are any other red or green engines on your railway?
Love from Adam Pathan, aged 3.
I'm afraid that James is the only red engine on my railway at the moment! However, Percy, Oliver, Henry, Daisy, Boco and Duck are all green engines!

Photo of the fortnight!

Dear Fat Controller, This is a picture of me when I went to visit Thomas and his friends at the Embsay Steam Railway, in Skipton!
Love from Jeevan Houli Hentges.



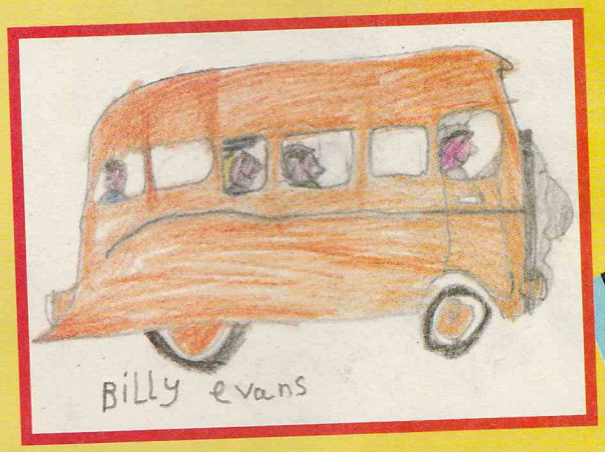
BIRTHDAYS!

Happy birthday to... Daniel Roberts, Ryan Mould, Andrew Grech. And belated wishes to, Adam Charlesworth, Michael Beckett and Samuel Pinks.

Drawing Board!

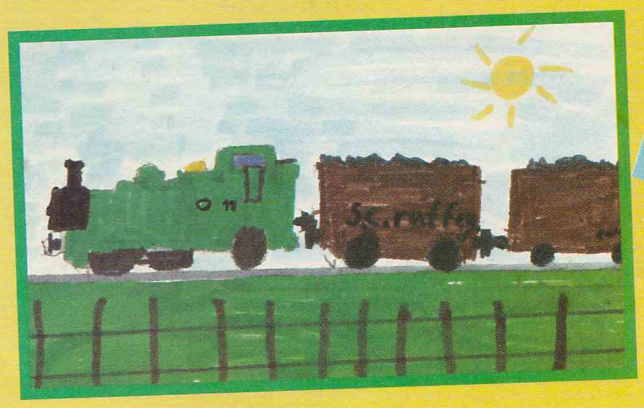
Thank you for sending your smashing drawings and pictures to the Fat Controller's Drawing Board!

Billy Evans, aged 6, has drawn a splendid picture of Bertie the Bus!



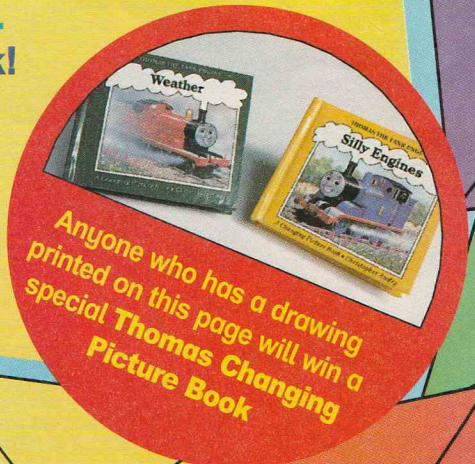
Joseph Barnes, aged 4, has sent in a picture of Gordon the Express Engine proudly puffing along. Well done, Joseph!

Oliver is busy with some trucks in this great picture sent in by, Michael Teasdale.



This beautiful picture of Thomas and James, busy on the branch line, was sent in by Matthew Watts, aged 9. Splendid work!

If you would like to have your drawing or painting displayed on the page, then please send your entries to: The Fat Controller's Drawing Board, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.



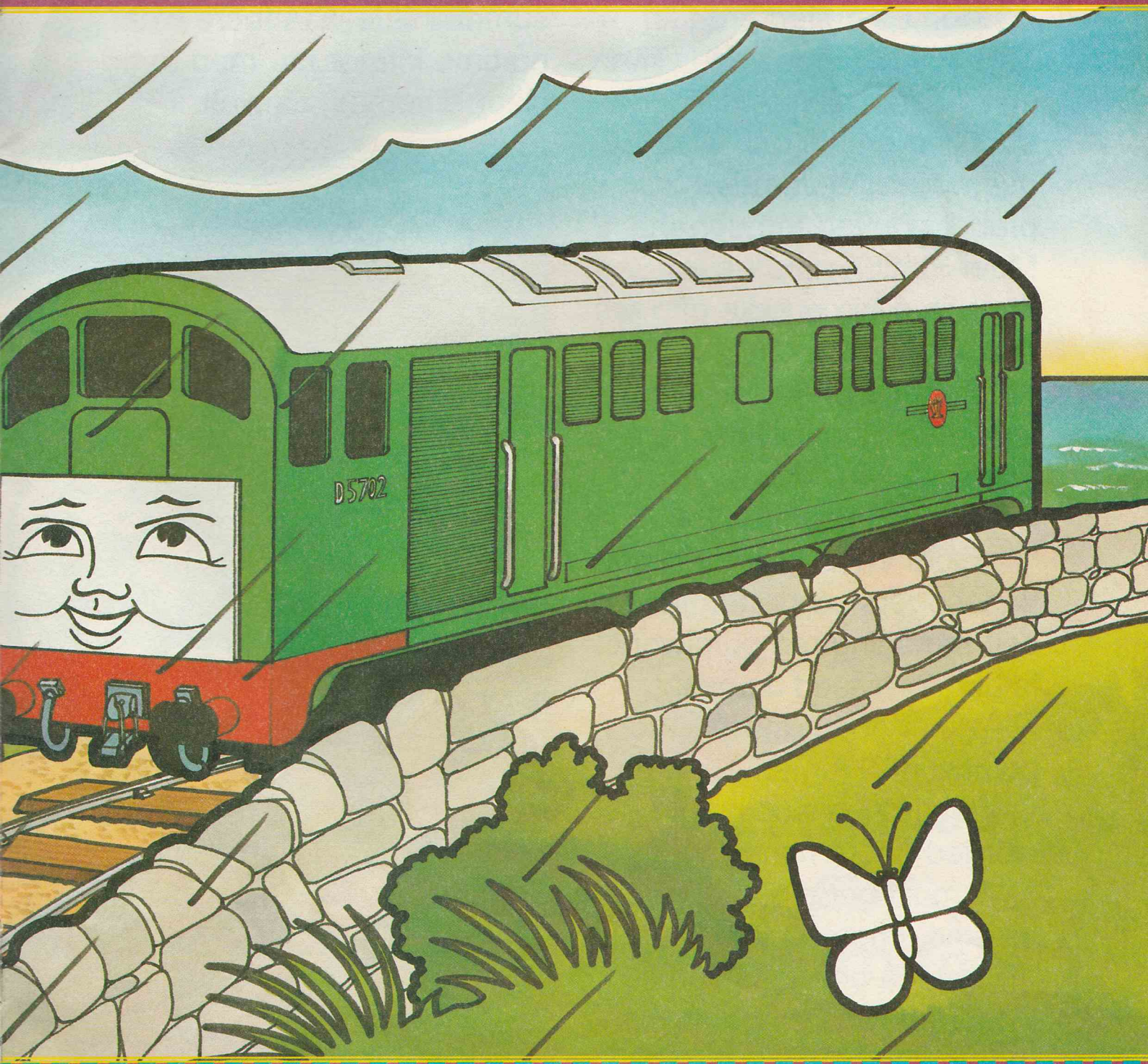
CUT OUT AND KEEP

W is fo

- W is for wind, How can you tell it's windy in the picture?
- Point to the butterfly, then colour it in.
- Which engine can you see in this picture?

- What co
- What co
- How ma picture

r _ _ _ _



lour is he?

lour are the girl's boots.

ny things can you see in this
that begin with the letter W?

This centre spread should be cut out as it forms part of a continuous scene for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom.

The red engine!

After a rainy night, James puffed grandly out of the engine shed. The sun was shining and it sparkled on his red paintwork. As James proudly puffed through the Main Station yard he ran through a big puddle of rain, left from the night before. Muddy water splashed all over him. Thomas, who was standing nearby, was soaked too.

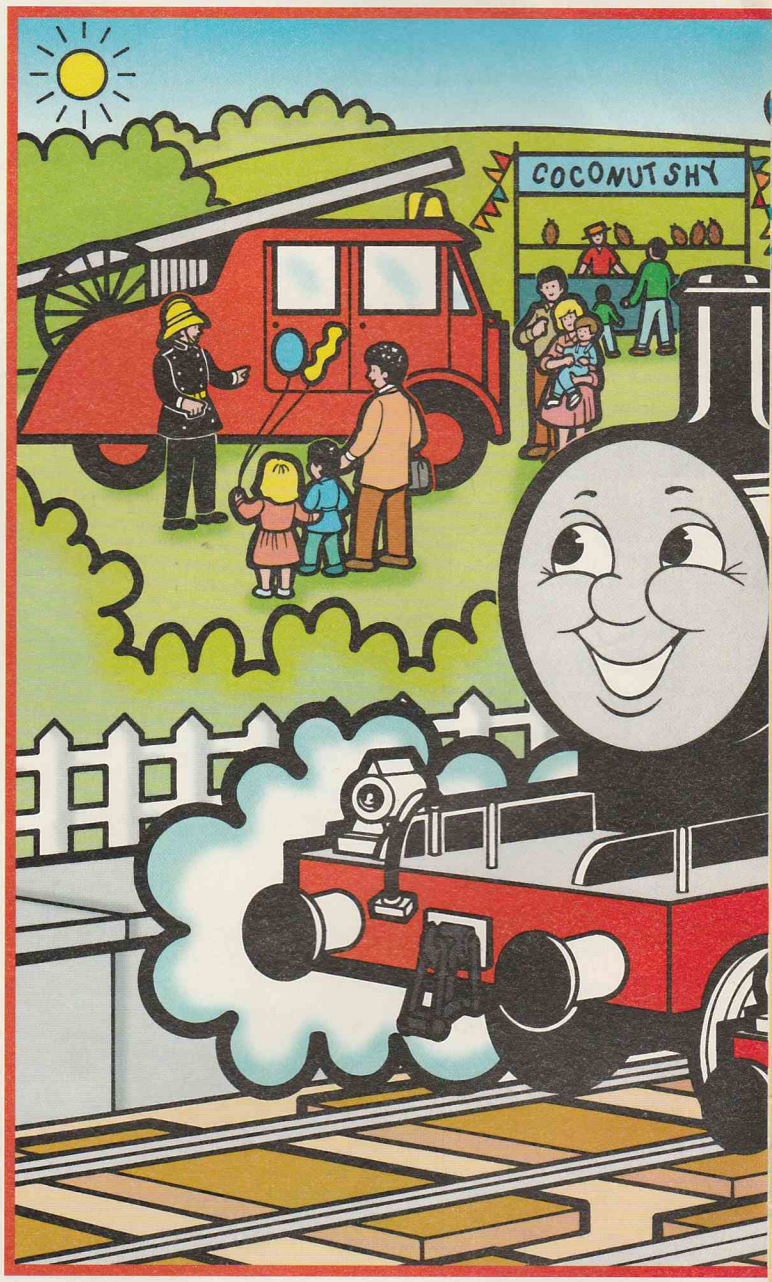
"Gah! What will my passengers say when they see my shiny red paintwork is dirty?" hissed James.

"What about my paintwork?" fumed Thomas.

But James was only worried about himself.

"I must get cleaned up!" he said, importantly. "Everyone on the Island of Sodor knows I'm the smart red engine!"

James made such a fuss, the Fat Controller had him polished before he set off to carry passengers to a summer fête. But there was no time left for the men to clean Thomas, as well.



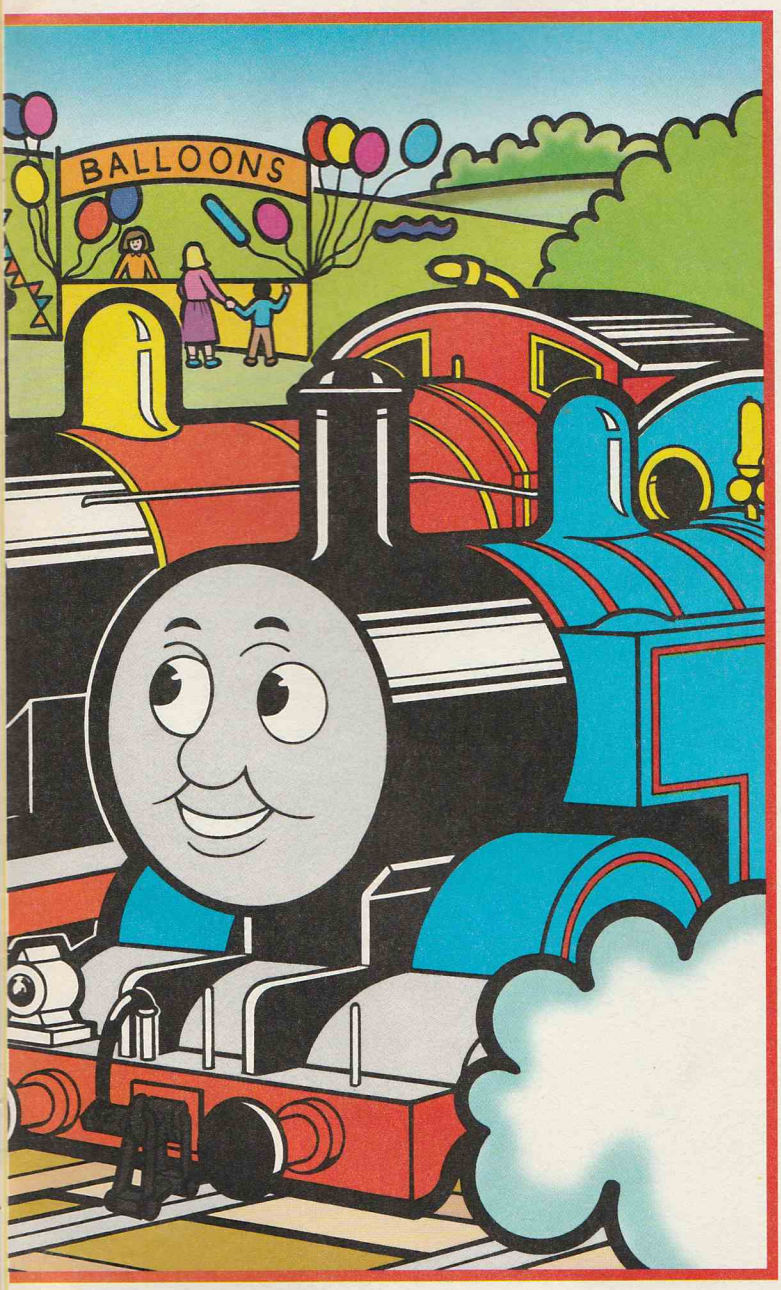
"It's not fair!" said Thomas, sadly.

"The Fat Controller

knows that a Really Useful red engine, like me, must always be kept spotless!" boasted James.

"There's another red engine on the Island that's even smarter and shinier than you!" replied Thomas.

"Impossible!" snorted



James. "Show me!"

"I will, soon!" replied Thomas. "My driver said the engine will be at the fête!"

James fumed angrily. Later, at the station by the fête, he met Thomas arriving with lots of passengers from his branch line.

"Where's this mysterious red engine?" sniffed James.

"Over there!" said Thomas.

James stared in surprise as men in caps and special uniforms showed children the other red engine.

"You've tricked me!" laughed James. "That's a fire engine!"

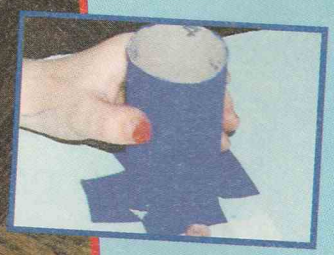
"Well, I never said it was a steam engine, did I?" teased Thomas.

Games are great played in the sun, Now turn the page for summer fun!

Make a HO

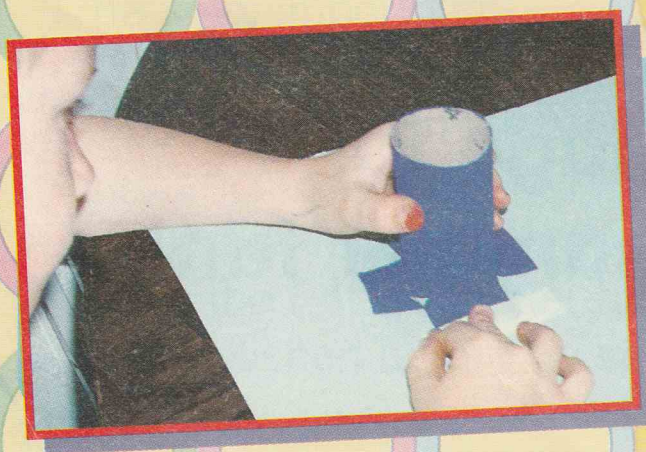
Hoop-la is a fun game to play and we are going to show you how to make one! It's really easy! By using the colours and numbers of the engines, this is going to be a very special Engine Hoop-la Game!

You will need:
2 sheets of card; 5 toilet roll tubes; blue, green and red paint; a piece of string; a black marker; sticky tape; safe glue and round-ended scissors



● With the help of a grown-up, cut four slits at the base of each of the toilet roll tubes. Then bend the flaps so it makes a stand for the toilet roll.

● Now you can paint your toilet roll tubes! Three must be painted blue, one must be painted green and the last one must be painted red!

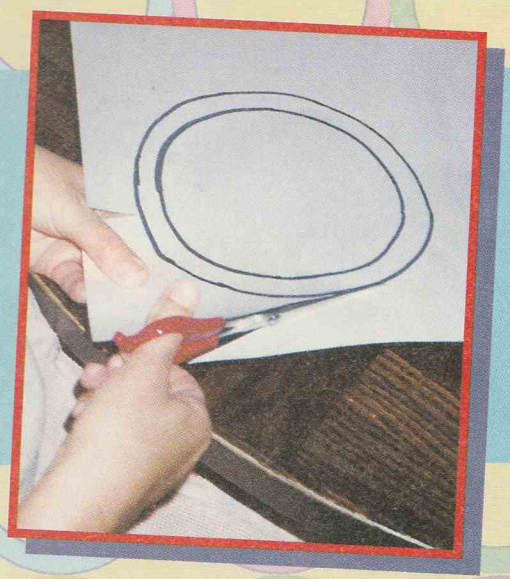


● When the paint has dried, glue or sticky tape the flaps on your toilet roll tubes to fix them to your piece of card!

Op-la game!

● Do you know the engine numbers of, Thomas, Edward, Henry, Gordon and James? The colours of the toilet roll tubes represent each of these engines. For example, Thomas is a blue engine and his engine number is 1. So below a blue toilet roll tube write the number 1! Number the rest of the toilet roll tubes with the other engines' numbers.

● Using your second piece of card, draw three large circles, then draw three smaller circles inside the big circles. Then ask a grown-up to cut the circles to make three rings!



● Now your game is finished! You can either hang your game up using your piece of string, or lay it on the floor! Every hoop-la you get, add up the numbers and the highest scorer wins! Good luck!

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.....

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I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
Please charge £..... to my **Visa/Mastercard** or call Credit card hotline on 01858 410510.

Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date .....

Card holder's signature .....

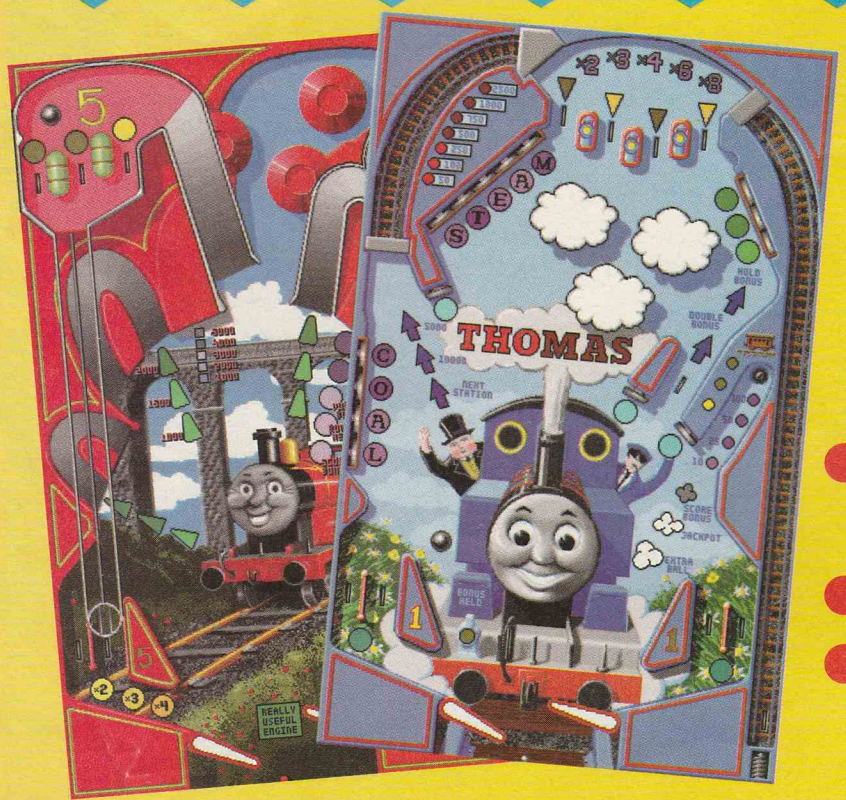
Parent's/donor's name Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... **Address (if different from child's)**

.....

.....**Post code** .....

Please send to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 503, Leicester, LE99 0AD.

Peep! Peep! Have your tickets ready for.....



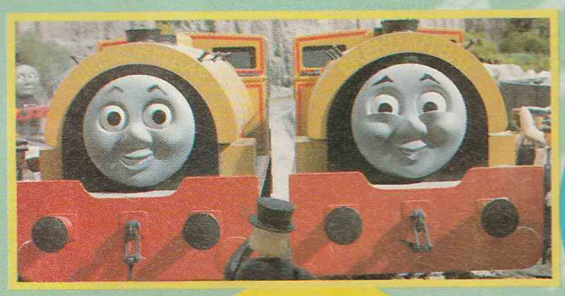
Issue 204 of THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

- **Win a fantastic pinball game!**
- **Load your engines!**
- **Play the track trouble board game!**

On sale July 29th, 1995!

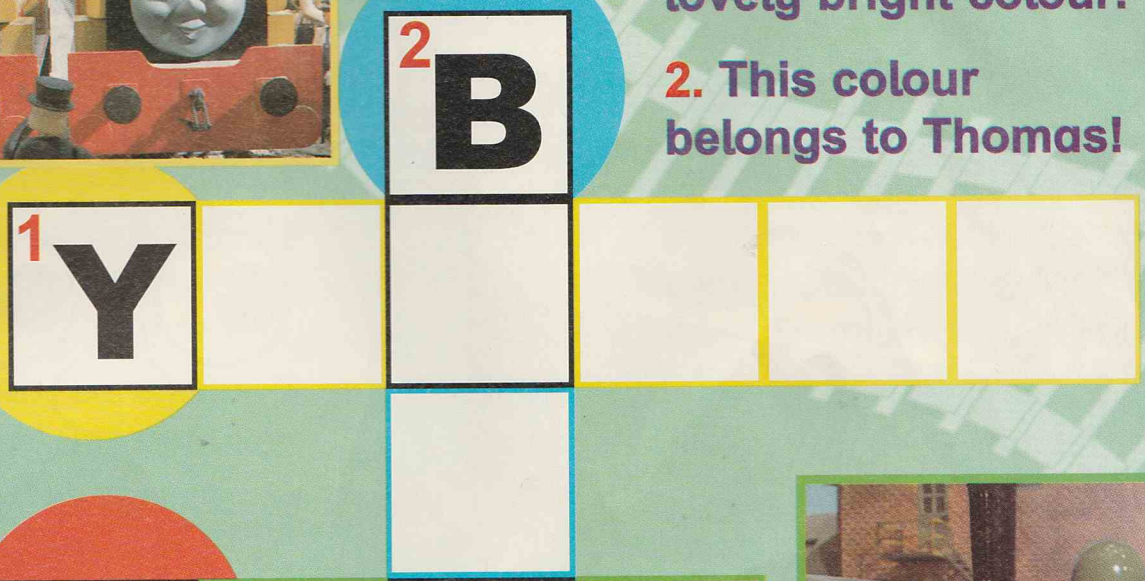
Colours of the railway!

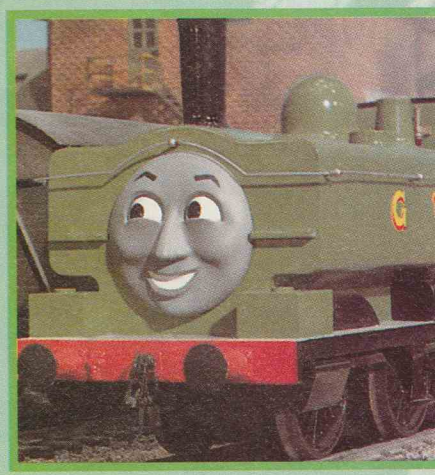
Do you know the colours of the engines on the railway? In this crossword puzzle, answer the questions about the engines and their colours and fill in the empty spaces! We have written the first letter of each answer to help you!

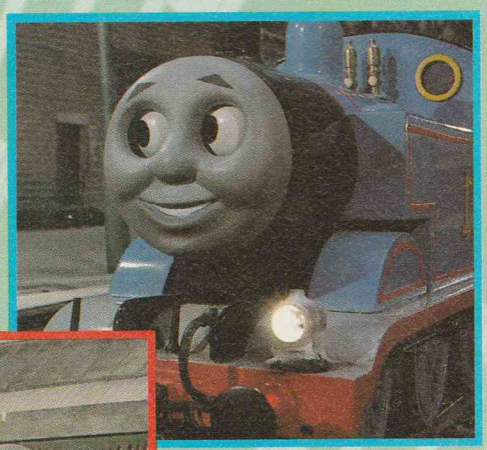


1. Bill and Ben are a lovely bright colour!

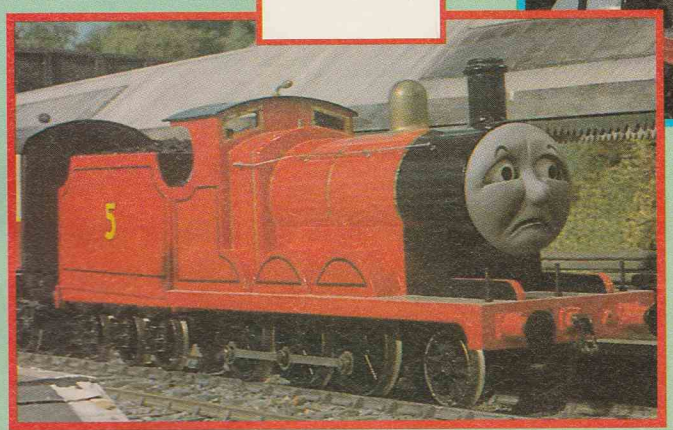
2. This colour belongs to Thomas!







3. This colour belongs to Duck!



4. James is a bright --- engine!

1. Yellow, 2. Blue, 3. Green, 4. Red

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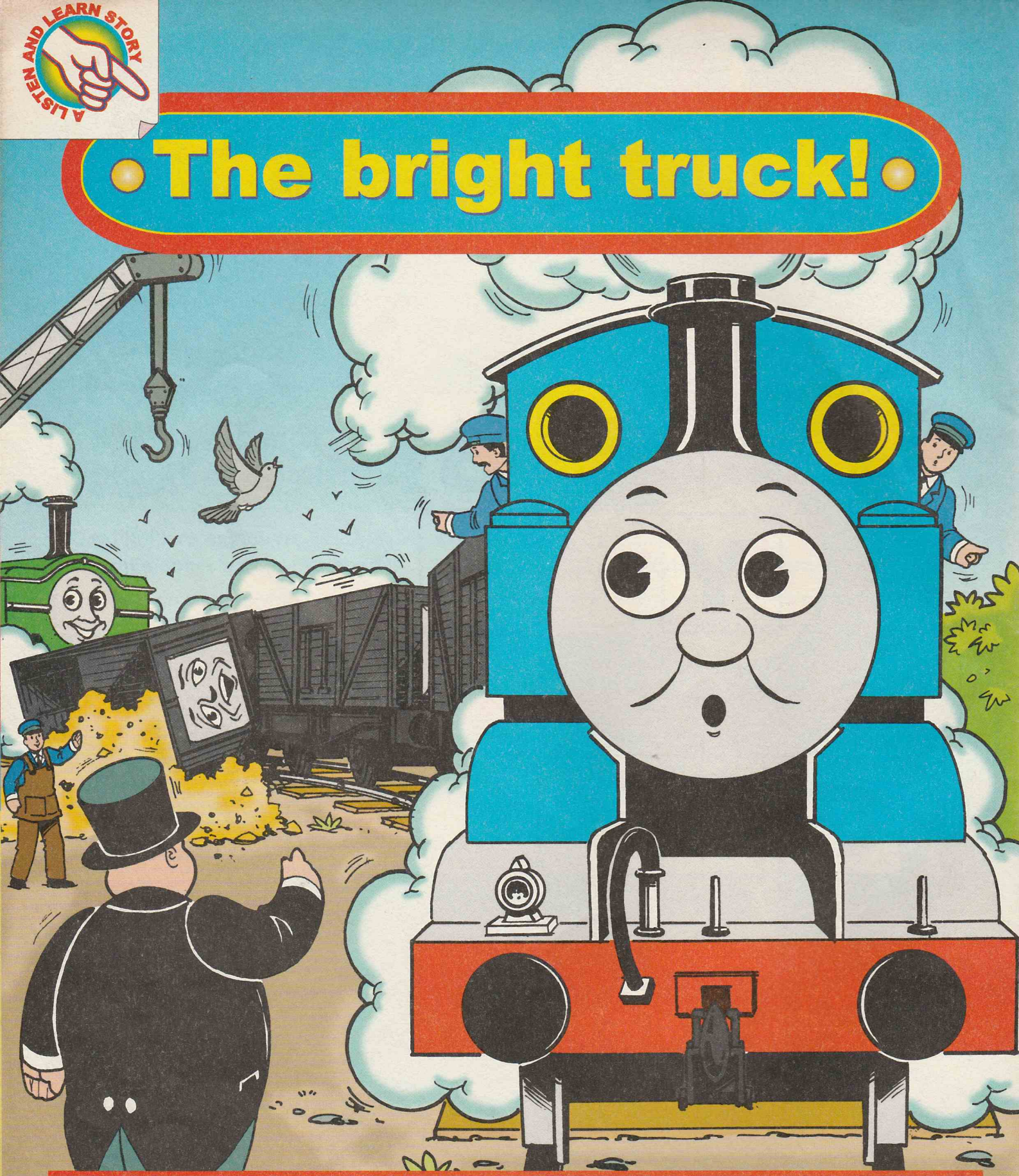
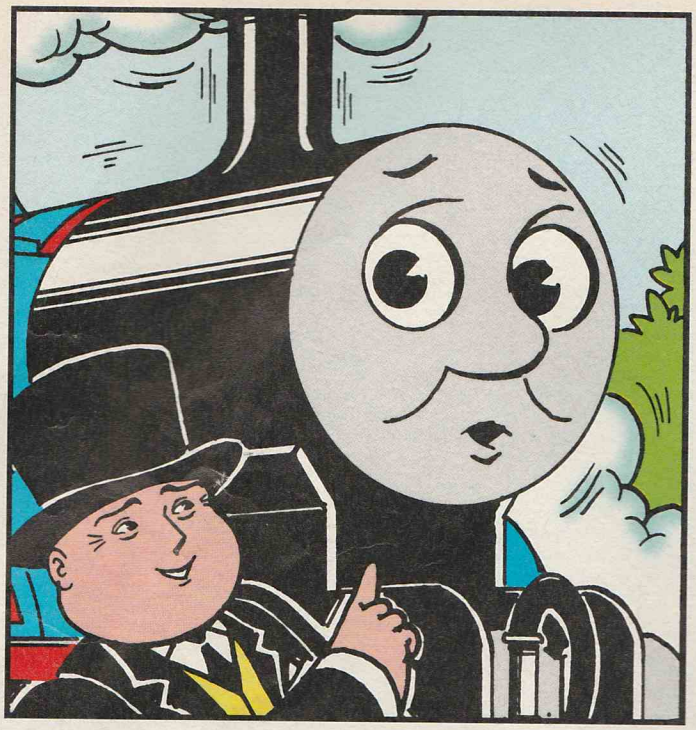
LISTEN AND LEARN STORY

The bright truck!

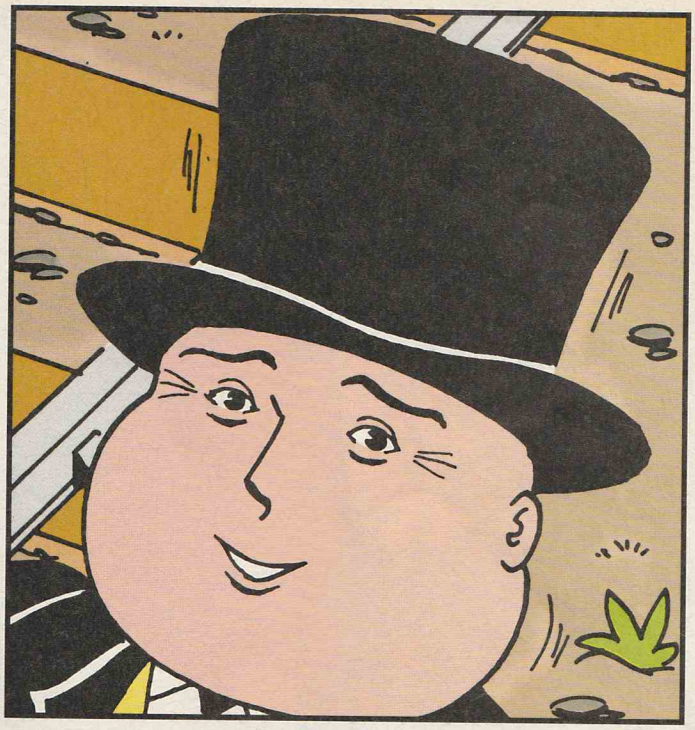


1. There had been an accident on Thomas's branch line. One of his trucks had bounced off the rails and overturned. The truck's load of sand had spilled onto the track.

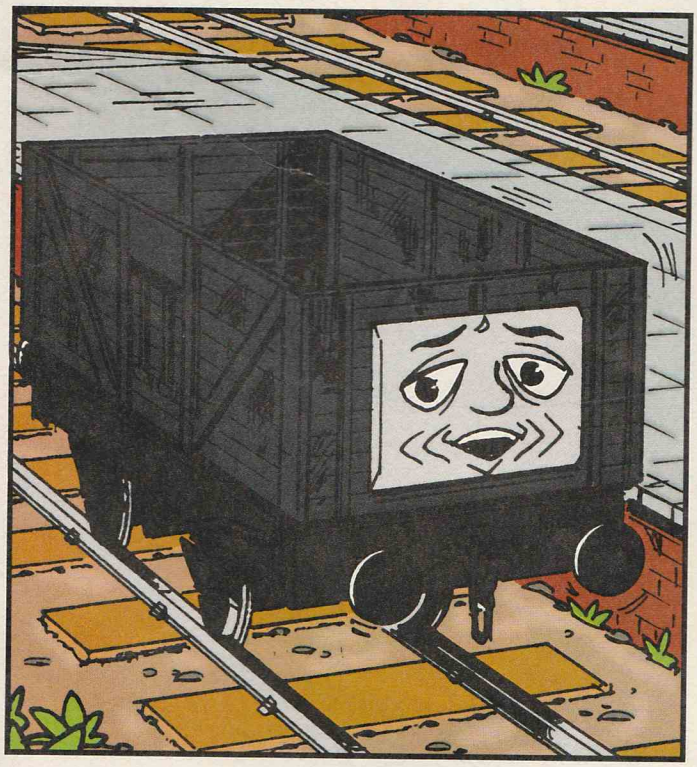
2. Duck had brought a crane and workmen to clean up the mess and lift the truck back onto the rails. The Fat Controller was with them. "This won't do at all!" he said.



3. Thomas was worried. He did not want to be blamed for the delay. "It's not my fault!" he puffed. "I was going very carefully!" "I know!" said the Fat Controller.

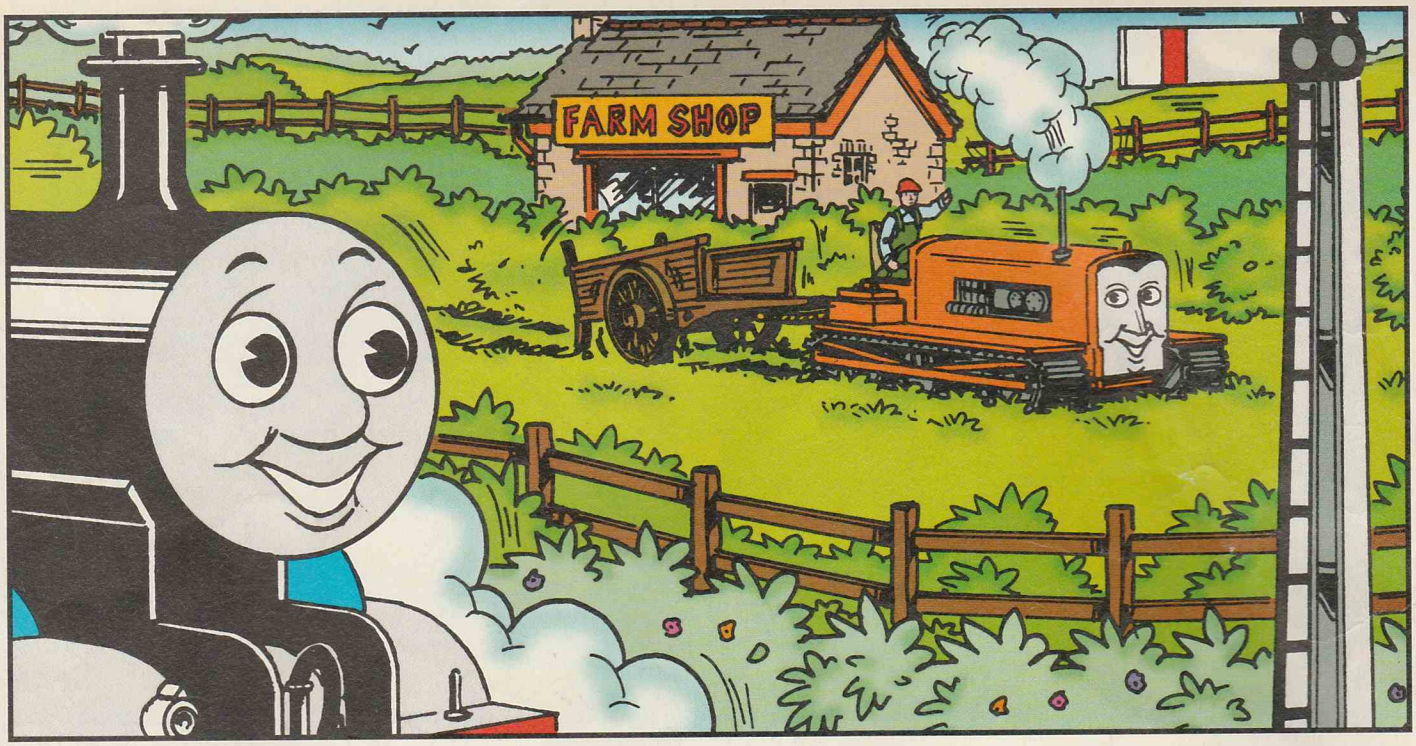


4. "It's the same truck that broke open and lost its load last week," he explained to Thomas. "The truck is very old. I will have to take it out of service!"



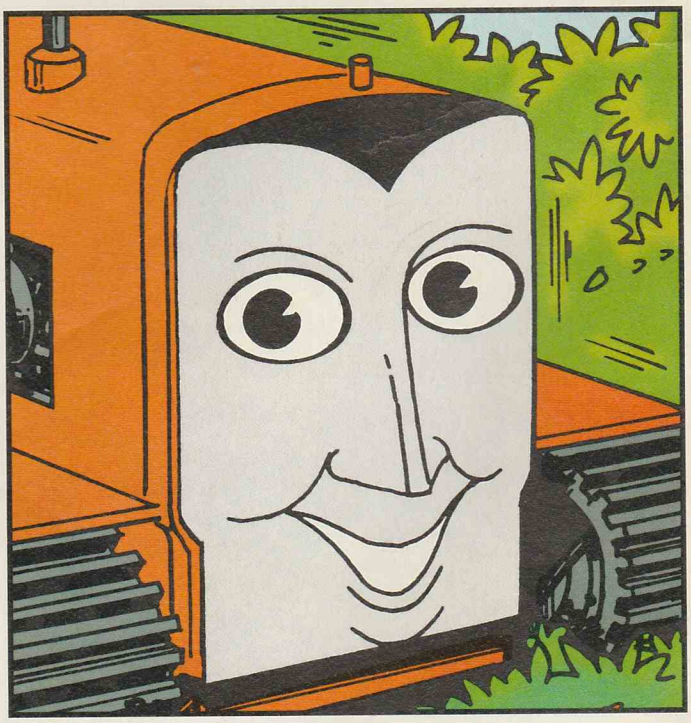
5. After the truck was rescued, Thomas shunted it into a nearby station. Then he steamed on his way without it. Next day, Thomas came by with a passenger train.

6. The old truck looked very sad and lonely. "What will happen to me now, Thomas?" he asked. "Will I just be left here to rust, or, even worse, be sent for scrap?"



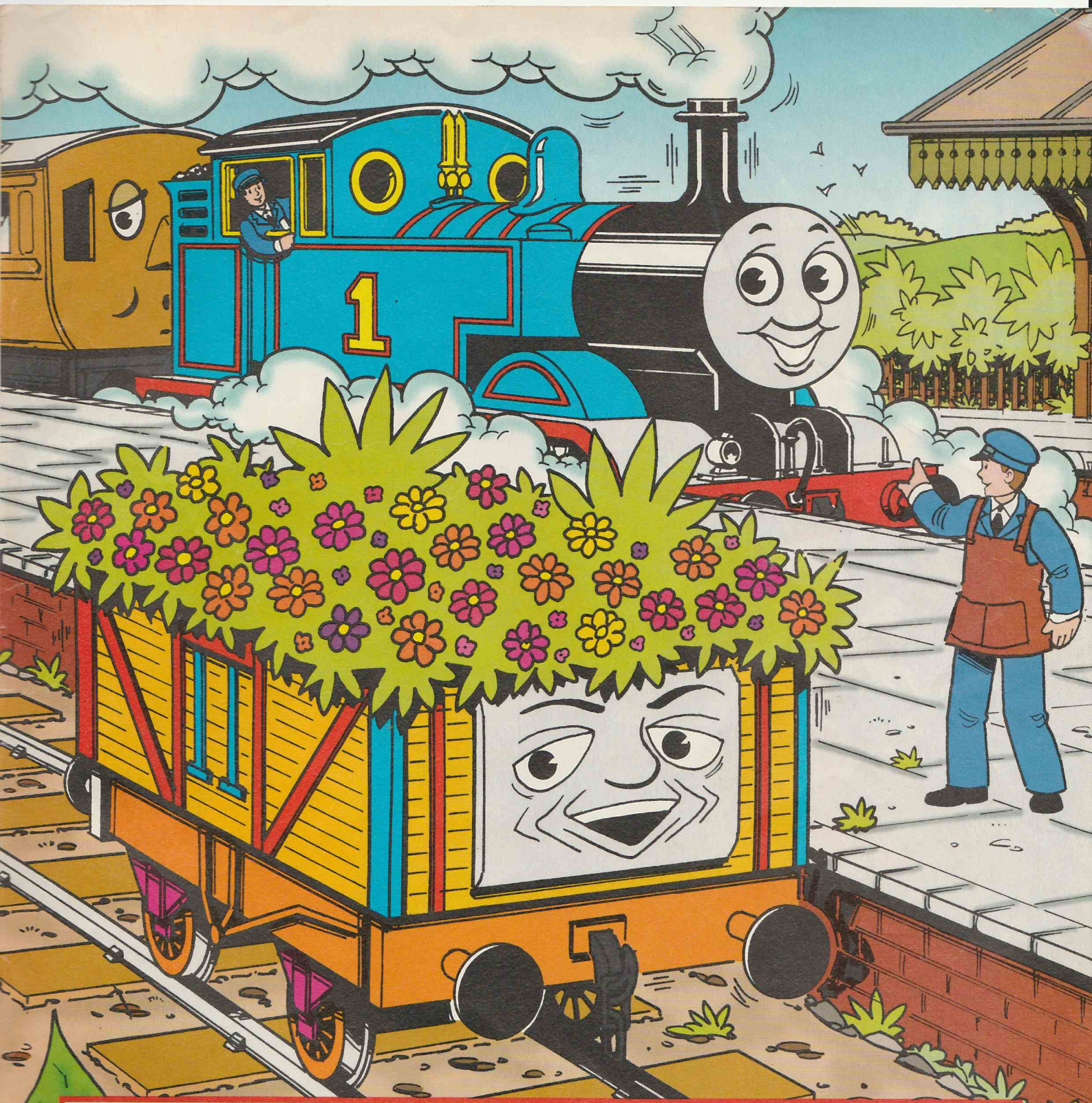
7. Thomas felt very sorry for the old truck. "There must be some use for it," he thought. Later, as Thomas puffed along his branch line, he spotted Terence.

8. He was pulling an old wagon. "Where are you going with that?" asked Thomas. "Wait and see!" said Terence. "It will look just like the one by the farm shop!"



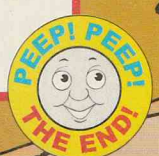
9. As Thomas passed the farm shop he noticed another wagon, but it didn't look like the one that Terence had pulled. It was painted and full of vegetables!

10. When Thomas returned from his trip up the line, he saw Terence again. He told him how lovely the newly painted wagon looked.



11. "Passers-by will enjoy seeing that old wagon now," Thomas's driver said. "The vegetables on it look so good, people will want to stop and buy some at the shop!" When Thomas returned to the Main Station, he spoke to the Fat Controller. "It's about the old truck, Sir," said Thomas. "I know how it could be Really Useful."

12. A few days later, when Thomas saw the old truck again, he hardly recognised it. The truck had been painted and filled with flowers. "My passengers say it makes the station look so much brighter!" the stationmaster told Thomas's driver. "Thanks to you Thomas, I feel a lot brighter, too!" sang the truck, happily.



PERCY
THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
POSTER